



## OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

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JESSE WHITE • Secretary of State

### SECRETARY OF STATE ORGAN/TISSUE DONOR REGISTRY

There is a tremendous need across the United States for more organ/tissue donors. Nearly 115,000 people are waiting for a transplant.

Presently, Illinois has one of the most successful state registries in the country with more than 6.5 million participants. More than 50 percent of those who visit a Driver Services facility join the Illinois Organ/Tissue Donor Registry.

In 2018, Illinois updated legislation regarding the First Person Consent Organ/Tissue Donor Registry. It allows 16- and 17-year-olds to give consent to donate their organs and tissue at the time of their death, with a single limitation. The procurement organizations, Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Network and Mid-America Transplant, must make a reasonable effort to contact a parent or guardian to ensure they approve of the donation. The parent or guardian will have the opportunity to overturn the child's decision. Once the 16- or 17-year-old turns 18, his/her decision would be considered legally binding without limitation.

A single donor can help save or improve the lives of up to 25 people. Sadly, 300 people die each year waiting for the gift of donation. There are currently more than 115,000 individuals waiting for the lifesaving gift of organ or tissue donation nationwide and approximately 4,700 of those in need are Illinois residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jesse White".

Jesse White

Illinois Secretary of State

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# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ORGAN/TISSUE DONOR REGISTRY

## How do I register as an organ and tissue donor?

- Visit [www.LifeGoesOn.com](http://www.LifeGoesOn.com)
- Call the Secretary of State's Organ/Tissue Donor Program at 800-210-2106.
- Send a request to the Secretary of State's Organ/Tissue Donor Program, Rm 451 Howlett, Springfield, IL, 62756, and express that you wish to become a donor. Please include your valid Illinois driver's license or state ID card number.
- Visit any Driver Services facility throughout the state.

## What information do I need to provide the donor registry?

- A valid state of Illinois driver's license or ID card; and
- Full name and home address.

## FREQUENT BARRIERS TO ORGAN/TISSUE DONATION

### Race:

- African-Americans and Hispanics are overrepresented on waiting lists, but underrepresented as potential donors.
- A close genetic match may contribute to increased success in transplants.
- In Illinois, the percentage of African-Americans signing up as organ/tissue donors is half that of the general population.
- More than 60 percent of the transplant candidates waiting for organs in Illinois are minorities.

### Religion:

- Some believe their religious views do not support organ/tissue donation. In fact, all major Western and Eastern religions support organ/tissue donation.

### Age:

- Older Americans are the most supportive of the concept of organ donation, but the least likely to register as donors. They believe they are too old; however, 40 percent of the Illinois organ donors in 2017 were over the age of 50. The oldest cornea recipient was 107 years old, and the oldest organ donor was 85 years old and successfully donated a kidney.

### Medical Care:

- Organ donation only occurs when a person is diagnosed as legally brain dead.
- Organ donation does not occur until all efforts to save a person's life have failed.